Managing MailMan

Management Features in MailMan V. 7.1

This topic describes the various maintenance requirements and technical solutions introduced with MailMan Patch XM*7.1*50 and any subsequent patches.

This information is directed mainly at the site's Information Resource Management (IRM) personnel.

Renamed and Revised File #4.3

With Patch 50, the KERNEL SITE PARAMETERS file (#4.3) was renamed to the MAILMAN SITE PARAMETERS file (#4.3). In addition to renaming the file, several fields have been added, deleted, or redefined in this file.

For a complete listing of all of the changes to File #4.3, please refer to the "Patch 50 Description" document located on the MailMan Home Page at the following web site:

http://vista.med.va.gov/mailman/index.html

Large Mail Groups—BIG GROUP SIZE Field

MailMan Patch 50 introduced new functionality when addressing messages to mail groups. Mail groups can now be classified as "large" (site-specified) and processed differently from "small-" to "medium-sized" mail groups. A mail group may be considered "large" when it has:

- A large number of local and remote members

- At least one or more member groups

- At least one or more distribution lists.

A new field, BIG GROUP SIZE (#7.2), was added to the MAILMAN SITE PARAMETERS file (#4.3) that allows IRM to set the number used to indicate when a mail group is considered "large." This helps eliminate the "dots of death" when addressing mail to a large group.

IRM can populate this field with a number ranging from 100 to 10,000 (no decimal points). There is no default for this field. If BIG GROUP SIZE equates to zero, then groups are processed in the foreground, as usual.

If IRM populates this field *and* if the group being addressed contains any member groups, or distribution lists, or the number of local members plus remote members exceeds or equals the BIG GROUP SIZE, then the user is asked whether or not they want to queue the group for later delivery and avoid waiting while the group is processed. The user is also warned that if they choose to queue the delivery, then recipients *cannot* be "minused" from the group.

If the user chooses to queue the delivery to the group, they are asked when the delivery should take place. The group will be queued for processing and delivery at the specified date and time by the same background job that "news" messages.

If the user chooses *not* to queue the delivery to the group, then processing proceeds in the foreground, as usual.

Display DUZ on User Lookup—SHOW DUZ WHEN ADDRESS MESSAGE Field

MailMan V. 7.1 with Patch 50 introduced new functionality where MailMan can display the user's DUZ when doing a lookup on a user in the following situations:

- Addressing messages.

- Displaying user information with the User Information option available on the Help (User/Group Info., etc.) menu.

A new field, SHOW DUZ WHEN ADDRESS MESSAGE (#7.3), was added to the MAILMAN SITE PARAMETERS file (#4.3) that allows IRM to decide whether or not the DUZ should be displayed when doing a lookup.

What are the advantages and disadvantages to displaying the DUZ of the local user?

- **Advantages**—A DUZ is unique, whereas some users may share the same or very similar name. If a user knows the addressee's DUZ, the DUZ may be used to address a message, instead of the name.

- **Disadvantages—**

  ➢ Your site's DUZs may be Social Security Numbers (SSNs), thus, they should not be displayed.

  ➢ Users may be confused by the display.

IRM can populate the SHOW DUZ WHEN ADDRESS MESSAGE field with a "YES" or "NO" value (i.e., 0 = NO, 1 = YES). If this field is null, the default answer is "NO." Thus, if SHOW DUZ WHEN ADDRESS MESSAGE field is "NO" or null, then a user's DUZ will *not* be shown when doing a lookup.

Display Address on User Lookup—SHOW ADDRESS ON USER LOOKUP Field

When doing a lookup on a user with the User Information option available on the Help (User/Group Info., etc.) menu, MailMan, among other information, displays the user's contact address (Fields .111 through .116 in the NEW PERSON file [#200]). Some sites have *home* address information stored in these fields, which should *not* be displayed.

A new field, SHOW ADDRESS ON USER LOOKUP (#7.4), was added to the MAILMAN SITE PARAMETERS file (#4.3) that allows IRM to decide whether or not the user's address should be displayed when doing a lookup.